

# A GENERAL STATE

OF THE

# WHITEHAVEN DISPENSARY,

For the Year 1789.



**T**HE Diseases of the *Summer* so rarely demanded any Medical Assistance, that fewer objects were never, at any period, admitted to the Benefits of this Charity: no contagious Malady then powerfully obtaining; and chronic Infirmities, notwithstanding the contrastive state of the weather in the former and latter part of the season, became remarkably mild and favourable.

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The chief Indisposition of Children, in the *Autumn*, was that of Slow Fever, preceded by a great degree of general weakness, and attended with a painful affection of the head and bowels; though exceedingly governable, it was mostly of fourteen days continuance. During the *Winter*, the variable state of the atmosphere, and the sudden transitions from dry to moist weather, gave occasion to Distempers manifestly inflammatory; especially to immediate and violent attacks of Pleuritic, and Rheumatic Affections. At this season several cases of NERVOUS FEVER (a frequent alarming epidemic of the adjacent country) took place in certain confined and necessarily unhealthy situations, viz. in *Charles* and *Peter-Streets*.

The want of pure air, cleanliness, and probably requisite attendance, excited a most virulent Contagion, which was eradicated with considerable difficulty. To the Precautions and Antidotes particularly noted in the Reports for 1784, and 1786, and upon this occasion liberally employed, was added, at the suggestions of an ingenious Governor of this Charity, that of the constant evolution of air from quick-lime, in consequence of the repeated application of small quantities of water.

In the month of *February*, a solitary instance of the SMALL Pox occurred in a very populous part of the town. —The Infection had been probably received in *Liverpool*, and the symptoms of it were benign and regular. Of the four neighbouring children, to whom this Disease was first communicated, two suffered a most confluent and fatal species; and, in the remaining more propitious cases, a Recovery was tediously effected; the eruptions,  
though

though distinct, being remarkably numerous. Alarmed with this extraordinary proof of malignancy, the Practice of INOCULATION very generally prevailed, and so solicitous were the lowest class of labouring people to immediately reap its Benefits, that of 1131 Children in this Town and Neighbourhood, then inoculated, 535 were DISPENSARY PATIENTS. † From which circumstance it is manifest, that the objections to this occasional branch of our Charity are happily in a great measure overcome. Universally prevalent, and singularly beneficial, few observations will be necessary to recommend, or inculcate, its expediency.

Established by the evidence of various and incontestible facts, this artificial Mode of introducing the SMALL Pox has long and successfully obtained. Previous to a discovery pre-eminently useful, the symptoms of this affection were, in many respects, exceedingly alarming. Distressfully painful in its progress, and destructive in its consequences, the Small Pox was then justly estimated the most formidable pestilential Contagion, and every precaution sagaciously taken to obviate, or avert, its baneful tendency.

† The numbers inoculated by this CHARITY, at the three general periods since its establishment, are as follows, viz.

In 1783	.....	30
In 1785	.....	206
In 1790	.....	535

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771

Of these only *one* died; and that solitary instance was occasioned by improper treatment; whereas of 275 children, who lately received the *natural* contagion, *forty-six* died!



Much does it redound to the credit and advantage of this age and kingdom, that a disease, which was for the most part fatal to one in six persons, and conveyed Deformity or Infirmary to numbers, has become, at this enlightened and benevolent period, in its present or future influence, of very trivial moment.

The Disorders which accompanied the SMALL POX, in the *Spring*, were not characterised by any obvious epidemic disposition. Principally inflammatory and consumptive, they appeared to be sensibly governed by the mutable state of the season. Their number, with that of the INOCULATED PATIENTS, and the considerable addition to the list of SURGICAL CASES, has chiefly occasioned the remarkable increase of admissions for the present year.

With regard to the deplorable subjects of SUSPENDED ANIMATION, by whatever mean induced, (another salutary Appendage to this DISPENSARY) as they naturally claim, so they shall always obtain our diligent and affectionate exertions. Impelled by the genuine dictates and best principles of HUMANITY, a more supreme satisfaction can never be experienced, than when we are thus administering to the most dreadful temporal contingency. And if such endeavour prove eventually successful, (for frequent and generally insuperable are its obstacles) no source of exquisite felicity can, in these instances, equal that of restoring life to an expiring, or apparently expired, Fellow Creature ; and whose Fate must have been otherwise inevitably determined.

This felicity fortunately occurred to the gentlemen (Messrs. ISAAC & JOHN WILLIAMSON, EDWARD DAW-

SON,

son, JOHN GAITSKELL, and WILLIAM C. LITTLE, (surgeons) who judiciously, and assiduously, effected the extraordinary Recovery of JAMES SOMMERVILLE. \* In which case a strict observance of those instructions, so liberally supplied by the ingenious REGISTER of the ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY, (whose beneficent regard to the various Interests of this Charity shall be ever gratefully acknowledged) and especially the employment of the FUMIGATING APPARATUS, gave the first indication of returning LIFE, and afterwards perfectly restored it.

The GENTLEMEN of the COMMITTEE have conferred a very considerable Obligation upon this Charity, by regularly devoting their Time and Attention to its monthly and extraordinary Concernments. Their presence would afford a respectable sanction to the proceedings of those to whom its complicated engagements are more immediately remitted, and might become of essential service in determining any subject of occasional enquiry.

The Friends of this Institution will affectionately deplore the Death of Mr. WILLIAM CHRISTIAN LITTLE, who from the impulse of Inclination, rather than Duty, assiduously and faithfully fulfilled the various obligations of APOTHECARY to the Charity. Whilst sedulously attentive to a family of FOUR PERSONS confined in one bed of a small noxious apartment, where malignant

\* The particulars of this singular instance of RESUSCITATION, after a detention of *Seven Minutes* beneath the surface of the water, are enumerated in the CASE and REPORT BOOKS of the DISPENSARY.

DISEASE had long, and virulently prevailed, he received that Contagion, which, in the space of eleven days, terminated a most useful existence. §

From a principal Regulation, it appears that the original Design of this DISPENSARY was to effectually administer medical and surgical Relief to the lowest Class of Indigent People; the SUBSCRIBERS are therefore requested to strictly confine their Recommendations to Objects of this description; the present Finances of this Charity, reduced by unavoidable Circumstances, being totally inadequate to a more general extension of its benefits.—Influenced by these considerations, the Man of Opulence and Liberality, it is ardently hoped, (and has been already happily experienced) will not withhold his assistance. And, as large Contributions are not to be expected where little can be spared, the smallest Donations of such as are benevolently disposed to favour the interests, or extend the views, of this Undertaking, will be perfectly acceptable.

Were argument necessary, it might be added That if affections of the most destructive nature and general prevalence are observed, by unerring EXPERIENCE, to originate with the POOR, and, dreadfully annoying their habitations, to gradually extend their baneful Influence; an ESTABLISHMENT, whose BENEFICENT AIM is that of sensibly mitigating, or totally eradicating CONTAGION, must be ever accounted of the highest Interest

§ Mr. WILLIAM CHRISTIAN LITTLE was elected Apothecary to the Dispensary, on the 9th of October last, and died on the 12th of May, sincerely regretted by all concerned in the management of this Charity.



to the WELFARE of the Community.—And that an Intention so salutary has been happily EFFECTED by THIS and all other similar CHARITIES, very indisputable attestations can be readily produced.

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All persons, who are disposed to contribute by WILL to this CHARITY, are requested to do it in the following manner:

“ I give and bequeath to A. B. and C. D. the sum of upon  
*trust, that they do pay the same to the TREASURER of the Whitehaven Dispensary;*  
*which sum of* *I desire may be applied towards carrying on the*  
*benevolent designs of the said CHARITY.”*

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An ACCOUNT of the PATIENTS admitted, from  
 JUNE the 8th, 1789, to JUNE the 14th, 1790.

Recommended and registered, (of whom 1185 were attended in their respective habitations)	-	-	-	2287
Midwifery objects	-	-	-	138
Trivial Cases	-	-	-	2417
Children prepared for the Small Pox	-	-	-	619
Persons inoculated for the Small Pox	-	-	-	535
				<hr/>
				5996
Patients remaining upon the books, June 8, 1789,				187
				<hr/>
				6183
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The STATE of the REGISTERS.

Cured	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2625
Relieved	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
Incurable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Irregular	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Dead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
Remain upon the books	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227
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Total Number of PATIENTS admitted since the  
Institution of this CHARITY, *June 30, 1783.*

In 1783	-	2057	Cured	-	-	-	-	11232
In 1784	-	2644	Relieved	-	-	-	-	442
In 1785	-	3034	Incurable	-	-	-	-	139
In 1786	-	2708	Irregular	-	-	-	-	23
In 1787	-	2521	Dead	-	-	-	-	414
In 1788	-	2129	Remaining upon the					
In 1789	-	5996	Books	-	-	-	-	227
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# A SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT OF THE PRECEDING DISEASES, With their RESPECTIVE EVENTS.

I. FEBRILE DISEASES.														P A T I E N T S.						
	Under 2 Years.	Between 2 & 5 Years.	5 & 10	10 & 15	15 & 20	20 & 30	30 & 40	40 & 50	50 & 60	60 & 70	70 & 80	80 & 90	100	Cured	Relieved	Incurable	Dead	Dismissed Irregular.	Remain- ing upon the books	Total.
Intermittent Fever	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	7
Inflammatory Fever	—	1	6	5	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	2	18
Nervous Fever	—	10	13	18	8 1	19 1	15	13	6	—	1	—	—	97	—	—	2	1	5	105
Worm Fever	1	32	35	22	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	80	—	—	—	—	13	93
External Inflammation	2	2	7	3	7	8	11	5	7	3	2	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	12	57
Gangrene	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	5
Inflammation of the Eyes	—	8	12	5	3	3	3	4	1	—	1	—	—	35	—	—	—	—	5	40
Inflammatory Sore Throat	—	—	—	2	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	1	14
Inflammation of the Lungs	c. d. 13 1	c. d. 28 4	7	2	2	4	7	3	5	1	1	1	—	74	—	—	5	—	—	79
Acute Rheumatism	—	—	—	—	4	15	20	4	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	1	51
Chronic Rheumatism	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	22	14	c. d. 10 2	1	4	—	46	4	—	2	—	3	55
Gout	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Inflammatory Eruptions	7	7	4	3	1	9	3	4	1	3	1	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	3	43
Natural Small Pox	c. d. 60 17	c. d. 125 24	c. d. 42 5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	152	—	—	46	—	77	275
Inoculated Small Pox	181	202	78	7	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	534	—	—	—	1	—	535
Chicken Pox	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	7
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Aphtha	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hemorrhages	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	7
Consumption	—	—	—	2	3	4 2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	4	—	3	15
Fluor Albus	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	5
Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	3
After Pains	—	—	—	—	4	43	26	10	—	—	—	—	—	80	—	—	—	—	3	83
Catarrh	—	—	1	1	2	13	10	11	12	9	4	—	—	57	—	—	—	—	6	63
Catarrh of Old Age	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	2	7
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
II. NERVOUS DISEASES.																				
Head Ach	—	—	—	—	3	6	3	1	5	7	1	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	2	26
Palsy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Fainting	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Indigestion	—	—	—	4	14	33	31	31	37	16	5	2	—	145	1	2	—	—	25	173
Flatulency	86	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	89	1	—	—	—	—	97
Convulsions	d. 4	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	—	—	2	10
Epilepsy	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Asthma	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	5	c. d. 9 1	c. d. 5 1	2	—	20	6	2	2	—	—	30
Colic	—	1	1	c. d. 5 1	4	16	33	c. d. 24 1	12	4	3	1	—	98	—	—	3	—	5	106
Diarrhœa	21	c. d. 25 1	15	2	1	4	4	4	7	5	4	—	—	85	4	—	1	—	3	93
Hysteria	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	4	6
Melancholy	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
III. DISEASES of the HABIT.																				
Chronic Weakness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	c. d. 4 2	—	3	8	1	2	—	3	17
Dropy	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	6	3	3 1	1	—	7	1	6	1	1	5	21
Hydrocephalus	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Hydrocele	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scrophula	2	3	4	2	2	7	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	4	—	—	1	4	24
Lues Venœrea	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jaundice	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	4
IV. LOCAL DISEASES.																				
Deafness	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	1	2	—	—	4	4	2	—	—	1	11
Gravel	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	1	4	1	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	2	11
Cancer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rupture	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Herpes	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scorbutic Eruptions	21	74	79	22	7	10	5	8	13	12	11	—	—	251	—	—	—	—	11	262
Scald Head	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	3
Luxations	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Wounds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	87	—	—	—	—	3	90
Contusions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	—	—	—	—	—	69
Ulcers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	4	1	—	—	3	27
Fractures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Sprains	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	3	49
Burns	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	—	—	—	—	1	62
Abcesses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	—	—	3	40
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Mr. Samuel Potter - - 1 11 6  
 Mr. John Parker - - 1 1 0  
 Mr. William Piper - - 1 1 0  
 Mr. Peter Peele, Dissington 1 1 0  
 Mr. Joseph Piper - - 0 10 6  
 Messrs. W. & E. Perry - 0 10 6  
 Mr. John Pirrie - - - 0 5 0

R

Mr. George Rayson, Drug-  
 gift, Leeds - - - 1 1 0

Carried forward £. 86 3 6

Brought over £. 86 3 6  
 Mr. Christopher Robinson 0 10 6  
 Mr. John Rumney - - 0 10 6  
 Mr. Ebenezer Reed - - 0 10 6  
 Mr. William Rothery - 0 10 6  
 Mrs. Richmond - - - 0 10 6  
 Mr. Peter Reed - - - 0 5 0  
 Mr. John Richardson - 0 5 0

S

J. T. Senhouse, Esq. - - 2 2 0  
 Rev. Thomas Stephenson 1 1 0  
 Mr. Alexander Spittall - 1 1 0  
 Mr. George Stalker - 1 1 0  
 Mr. Robert Sanderfon - 1 1 0  
 The Friendly Society at the  
 Three Tuns - - - 1 1 0  
 Mr. Oswald Sumpton - 0 10 6  
 Mr. Andrew Spittall - 0 10 6  
 Miss Senhouse - - - 0 10 6  
 Mr. John Sarjeant - - 0 5 0

T

Mrs. Taylor - - - 1 1 0  
 Mr. Ebenezer Tipping . 0 5 0

W

Richard Wordsworth, Esq. 1 1 0  
 John Wordsworth, Esq. 1 1 0  
 Mr. John Wilfon, Mercer, 1 1 0  
 Mr. Mark Wylie, Druggist 1 1 0  
 Mrs. Wetherald, Wigton 1 1 0  
 Messrs. J. Ware & Son 1 1 0  
 Mr. John Walker - - 0 10 6  
 Mr. Joseph Wilfon - - 0 10 6  
 Messrs. Witherington and  
 Brown - - - 0 10 6  
 Mr. John Williamson, Sur-  
 geon - - - 0 10 6  
 Mr. Thos. Wilfon, Surveyor 0 5 0

Carried forward £. 108 8 6  
 Brought

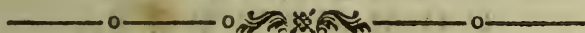
Brought over	£. 108	8	6
Mr. Jonathan Wills	-	0	5 0
Rev. David Williamson	0	5	0
Y.			
Mr. Peter How Younger	1	1	0
Mrs. Younghusband	-	0	5 0
<hr/>			
Total Subscriptions	£. 110	4	6
In the Charity Box	-	-	11 6
Cash Lent	-	-	100 0 0
Interest of do.	-	-	5 0 0
Do. of Surplus Cash	} 7 8		
£. 0 13 2			
Loss by light Gold and			
bad Silver 0 5 6			
Interest on Old Account	1	9	3
<hr/>			
Carried forwards	£. 217	12	11

Brought over	£. 217	12	11
Balance with the Treas-			
urer last Year	-	51	18 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total	£. 269	11	2 $\frac{1}{4}$

DISBURSEMENTS.

Drugs and Medicines	48	3	3
Printing and Stationary	5	17	10
MIDWIFERY Expences,			
Wine, Coals, Candles,			
Phials, and sundry small			
Articles	-	-	41 7 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Apothecary's Salary	-	30	0 0
Gratuity to Mrs. Rout-			
ledge	-	-	10 10 0
<hr/>			
	135	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Balance	-	-	£. 133 12 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
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*SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in at the TREASURER's;  
at the DISPENSARY; and at WARE's  
PRINTING-OFFICE.*

*Blank Letters of Recommendation may be had at the Dispensary.*

☞ The Charity, during the last Year, has been favoured with frequent Supplies of OLD LINEN; it is hoped the same kind Attention will be experienced in future, that Article being very useful in the SURGICAL DEPARTMENT.

OFFICERS

# OFFICERS for the YEAR 1790.

## P R E S I D E N T.

The Right Honourable James Earl of Lonsdale.

## V I C E P R E S I D E N T S.

John Christian Curwen, Esq. | Anthony Benn, Esq.  
William Brownrigg, M. D. and F. R. S.  
Rev. Wilfrid Hudleston. | Rev. C. C. Church.

## TREASURER.

## SECRETARY.

Mr. Robert Blakeney.      Mr. Peter How Younger.

## A U D I T O R S.

Robert Fisher, Esq. | Mr. John Wilson.  
Mr. Joseph Bell.

## C O M M I T T E E.

John Hartley, Esq. | Thomas Hartley, Esq.  
Robert Fisher, Esq. | James Hogarth, Esq.  
Mr. Benjamin Gilliat. | Mr. Robert Blakeney.  
Mr. R. Fletcher, Merchant. | Mr. H. Fletcher.  
Mr. R. Fletcher, Mercer. | Mr. Thomas Fisher.  
Mr. Joseph Bell. | Mr. John Johnston.

## PHYSICIAN.

Joshua Dixon, M. D.

## SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY.

Mr. John Hamilton.

## S U R G E O N.

Mr. Joseph Harris.

## A P O T H E C A R Y.

Mr. Joseph Gunson.